Government of India in accordance with the approved guidelines/procedures for such schemes for sanction and release of necessary funds. The approved package also stipulates that the programmes/interventions involving financial outlay upto Rs. 50 lakhs will be implemented by the State Government of Kerala from their own funds under their schemes.

Quality testing of food served in hotels and dhabas

†*408. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the test of the quality of food served at hotels and dhabas is not carried out by Government from time to time;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the report of the survey carried out by the Indian Toxicology Research Institute, Lucknow in 2008 according to which dye Sudan-I and Sudan- 4, which are dangerous for health, have been used to adulterate red chilly powder used in several dhabas; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government against the companies producing adulterated spices and dhabas which use them?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The implementation of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA), 1954 and Rules, 1955 is entrusted to the Food Health Authorities of the State/U.T. Governments. The enforcement staff of the Food Health Authorities draw random samples of different food articles from all sources *viz.* manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers and also from hotels and dhabas and get them analysed to see whether the samples confirm to the standards laid down under the PFA Rules, 1955 and other provisions of PFA Act, 1954.

Survey studies conducted at Indian Institute of Toxicology Research Lucknow, showed presence of harmful dyes, Sudan-1 and Sudan-4 in non-branded loose chilly powder samples with a range of 0.2-11.7 mg./g. but none of the branded chilly powder samples were found to contain these dyes. None of these chilly powder samples were taken from dhabas/hotels.

Action against persons engaged in such adulteration of food items is taken by the concerned State Governments under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954.

Adverse effect of less rain in agricultural production

†*409. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:
SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural production is likely to be affected adversely due to shortage of rainfall in the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.